



The Old Ironsides Report

14 June 2003

1 AD patrols continue to clear criminals off city's streets

Story and photo by Spc. Christopher Stanis 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Old Ironsides soldiers are taking to the streets of Baghdad to provide a safe and secure neighborhoods and to protect key city assets.

These soldiers conduct day and night patrols to secure specified sites from Ali Baba – the Iraqi term for thief – and enforce curfew, with the bottom line being to make Baghdad a safer place to live.

"There's not a lot of law here," said Staff Sgt. Brian Dommell, Task Force 1-35. "So we have to set the standard so people will get used to abiding by laws."

The protective sites include the banks and ministry buildings – all vacant since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime – and the TV. and radio antenna.

Dommell said they catch looters on every patrol in the Ministry of Information and Al Rafidain Bank – across the street from each other.

But with the restoration of the buildings in the near future, they need the looting to stop.

"Most of the people are poor, and a good number of them are just trying to sell the stuff," Dommell said. "But what they don't understand is that the more they take, the more they have to rebuild when they start."

Aside from the looting, Dommell said the atmosphere is pretty calm and acceptant of coalition forces.

Night patrols in certain areas of the city, on the other hand, show a little more hostility toward the peacekeepers.

"I'd say about 80 percent of (Iraqis) are happy we're here. They want us to stay here and build up security," said Staff Sgt. Cameron Bontrager, a scout with 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. "But you have 20 percent that is disillusioned."

While the enemy threat is still there, Bontrager feels pretty secure while on patrol.

"(The assailants are) pretty much cowards," he continued. "All they do is throw the weapon in your direction and 'spray and pray' and take off."

He said the only thing they really have to watch for is command-detonated mines and grenades.

But he has a solution to that problem.

"As long as you maintain good security posture and stay tough, the Iraqi people aren't going to mess with you too much," he said. The main purpose of night patrols is to enforce curfew.



Soldiers from Task Force 1-35 escort suspected looters during a recent day patrol. Soldiers take to the streets to provide a safe and secure environment to the people and to protect the city's assets from looters.

"Everyone in Baghdad knows there's a curfew, but they want to run around after curfew anyway," Bontrager said

He said they spend a lot of the night stopping vehicles, but they have to make the call on whom they arrest and whom they just harass.

"If they're just drunk, we'll arrest them and drag them around all night ... until they sober up, then we drop them off," Bontrager continued.

While patrolling the city, a common site to see even at 2 a.m. used to be people awake guarding their shops and homes.

Though those people might still be found, Bontrager said things are getting better as the patrolling continues.

"When we first went rolling around, there were a lot of guys with (AK-47s) guarding the front of their homes," he said. "I haven't seen an AK in front of a home in a long time."

WEATHER

Sun Jun 15		Sunny	109°/79°
Mon Jun 16		Sunny	110°/77°

NEWS

Israel, Palestinians Set to Resume Talks

JERUSALEM (AP) - Top Israeli and Palestinian security officials planned to resume talks Saturday over a possible Israeli withdrawal from areas in the Gaza Strip as part of its effort to put a U.S.-backed peace plan back on track following a week of intense violence, officials said. Meanwhile, the first contingent of U.S. monitors who were to supervise implementation of the "road map" peace plan - a team of 10 to 15 officials headed by John Wolf, an assistant secretary of state - were headed to the region Saturday.

Democrats Cite Flaws in Prescription Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) - A highly anticipated prescription drug bill that is heading to the Senate for debate has some deep flaws that need changing - particularly that its benefits are not offered through traditional Medicare, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said Saturday. Stabenow, in the Democrats' weekly radio address, said that if drug benefits were not offered through Medicare, older Americans would be at the mercy of insurance companies who could set different premiums and levels of coverage in different parts of the country, or even within the same state.

Afghan Insurgent Attacks Rise, U.S. Says

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Insurgents in eastern Afghanistan fired rockets at a U.S. base Saturday, the latest in a series of attacks against American forces. Three rockets were fired at the U.S. base in Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province, U.S. military spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said. The rockets missed, as scores of others have over the past year, and they caused no damage or casualties.

Pro-Clergy Militants Arrested in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Police on Saturday arrested dozens of pro-clergy militants who attacked university dormitories and beat up students in a wave of violence aimed at putting down criticism of Iran's Islamic government.

Chaplain's thought for the day How much are you worth?

Calvin Trilling noted an incident in which a man was kidnapped in the Bronx. The kidnappers demanded \$100,000 in ransom but his wife managed to talk them down to \$30,000. She paid it and the husband arrived home unharmed.

Trilling wondered, how did the man feel when he discovered he had become a discount special?

How much are we worth?

Luke 12:6 says: "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins?" And not one of them is forgotten before God.

SPORTS

Roddick takes #1

LONDON (AP) - Andy Roddick served at 149 mph to equal the world record and beat Andre Agassi for the first time, winning 6-1, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6) Saturday to reach the final at Queen's Club. His victory came a day after the second-seeded Agassi took over the No. 1 ranking on the ATP Tour.

Clemens makes history

Roger Clemens made history two times Friday against the Cardinals, notching his 4,000th career strikeout and winning game No. 300. Clemens becomes the 21st member of the vaunted 300-win club, and only the third pitcher with 4,000 K's.

US OPEN

Pos.	Player	Score	Through	Total Today	Total Strokes
1	Furyk, James	-10	F	-2	175
2	Singh, Vijay	-7	F	-1	180
3	Leaney, Stephen	-5	F	E	187
4	Pride, Dicky	-7	F	-4	206
4	Leggatt, Ian	-4	F	-2	202

End of an Era

Hatfield, McCoy Descendants Ink Truce

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) - A pen and ink sealed the end of Appalachia's most infamous bloody feud instead of a shotgun and bullets. Descendants of the Hatfield and McCoy families gathered Saturday morning in Pikeville to sign the truce, making a largely symbolic and official end to the feud that claimed at least a dozen lives.

Is your favorite tune here?

VH1 recently released its list of top 100 songs for the last 25 years...

10	Madonna	"Like a Virgin"
9	Police	"Every breath you take"
8	Whitney Houston	"I will always love you"
7	Prince	"When doves cry"
6	Run-D.M.C.	"Walk this way"
5	U2	"One"
4	Eminem	"Lose yourself"
3	Guns n' Roses	"Sweet child o' mine"
2	Michael Jackson	"Billie Jean"
1	Nirvana	"Smells like teen spirit"

BIAP Entertainment Center Events

USA Express

16 & 18 June 1900
4th Brigade Hangars

Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders (Cowgirls)

19 June 0900-1200
4th Brigade Hangars